

REMARKS:

- 1) The Examiner's attention is directed to the Information Disclosure Statement being filed together with the present Response. Please consider the cited reference, and return an initialed, signed and dated acknowledgment copy of the IDS Form PTO-1449.
- 2) Referring to item 10) of the Office Action Summary, please indicate the acceptance of the originally filed drawings in the next official communication.
- 3) A few editorial amendments have been made in the specification. Namely, a typographical error has been corrected at page 11, line 4, and the original disclosure has been clarified at page 14, lines 12 and 13 based on the features of original Fig. 4. These amendments are supported by the substance and the context of the original disclosure, including the original drawings, and do not introduce any new matter. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.
- 4) Claim 1 has been amended editorially and to incorporate subject matter from original claim 5. These amendments do not introduce any new matter. Claim 5 has been canceled. Entry and consideration of the claim amendment are respectfully requested.
- 5) New claims 18 to 29 have been added. The new claims are a fresh approach at defining different combinations of significant

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features of the inventive subject matter. The new claims are supported by the original disclosure as shown in the following table, and do not introduce any new matter. Entry and consideration of the new claims are respectfully requested.

New Claims	18	19	20	21	22	23
Original Support	Cl.1,5; pg.4, ln.10-18; pg.9, ln.6-13; pg.14, ln.3-17	Fig.4; Cl.1,3; pg.4, ln.10-18; pg.9, ln.6-13; pg.14, ln.3-17	Fig.4; Cl.1,5; pg.4, ln.10-18; pg.9, ln.6-13; pg.14, ln.3-17	Fig.4; pg.9, ln.6-13; pg.14, ln.3-17	pg.9, ln.9-12; pg.11, ln.14-17	Fig.4; pg.9, ln.9-13; pg.11, ln.9-17

New Claims	24	25	26	27	28	29
Original Support	Cl.7; Figs.4-9; pg.9, ln.20-24; pg.11,ln.2-7	Cl.2	Cl.3	Cl.1,7; pg.4, ln.10-18; pg.9, ln.6-13; pg.14, ln.3-17; pg.11, ln.9-17	Cl.7; Figs.4-9; pg.9, ln.20-24; pg.11,ln.2-7	Cl.2

- 6) Referring to section 1 on page 2 of the Office Action, the rejection of claim 17 as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is respectfully traversed. The Examiner has not pointed out any particular unclear or indefinite aspect of claim 17. It is noted that claim 17 is a method claim depending from the apparatus or product claim 5. That does not make claim 17 indefinite. In this regard, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider M.P.E.P. §821.04, §2116.01, and §608.01(n)(Examiner Note 2), which expressly sanction method claims that depend from a product or apparatus claim. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 17 is clear, particular, and

definite, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

- 7) Referring to section 2 on page 2 of the Office Action, the general objection to the claims is respectfully traversed. The Examiner has asserted that "the claims are generally narrative and indefinite...(and) appear to be a literal translation...". The Examiner has not identified any particular defects or errors in the claims. The claims have been reviewed and no such defects or errors could be found. These claims are not a literal translation from a foreign document, but rather have been drafted to conform to proper US practice with the degree of clarity, particularity and definiteness allowed by the inventive subject matter, as required by 35 U.S.C. §112. Thus, unless some particular defect or error can be identified, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this general objection.
- 8) Referring to sections 3 to 21 on pages 2 to 8 of the Office Action, the rejection of claims 1 to 17 as obvious over US Patent 5,086,385 (Launey et al.) in view of US Patent 5,677,603 (Speirs et al.) is respectfully traversed.
- 9) Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate subject matter from original claim 5. An important aspect of the invention of claim 1 is the main menu that has two features. First, the main menu depicts system status information about the subordinate first and second cabin systems. Secondly, the main menu provides links that allow the user to select a desired one

of the first and second system menus from the main menu. This combination of features of the main menu in the inventive arrangement according to present claim 1 would not have been suggested by the prior art.

- 10) Launey et al. disclose a home automation system using a touchscreen on which various menus can be displayed, and a user can make selections from the menu choices by touching allocated areas of the touch sensitive surface of the touchscreen.

Launey et al. provide a main menu that identifies each of the available sub-menus and allows a user to select a desired sub-menu listed on the main menu (see e.g. Figs. 3A and 12A of the reference).

However, contrary to the present invention, in the Launey et al. system the main menu DOES NOT depict status information representing the system status of at least two of the available sub-systems. Instead, the top-level main menu (e.g. Figs. 3A and 12A of the reference) only provides a list of the available sub-menus and does not depict or otherwise provide any status information regarding the existing status of any one of the systems allocated to the sub-menus.

Quite distinctly, in the system according to Launey et al., the user is not given any status information by the main menu, but instead must "page down" through several levels of sub-menus before actually obtaining any status information regarding the selected sub-system.

For example, the main menu (Fig. 3A) does not provide any status or information regarding a musical compact disk (CD) being

played. To obtain such information regarding the status of a CD being played, the user must select "Audio/Video" from the main menu (Fig. 3A), then select "Compact Disk" from the Audio/Video sub-menu (Fig. 3B), to arrive at the "CD Selection" sub-menu (Fig. 3D) which lists the available CD titles. Even at this level, it is not expressly disclosed whether this "CD Selection" sub-menu depicts status information regarding a respective CD title that is playing.

As a further example in which status information is expressly provided in the Launey et al. system, consider the security system. Once again, the main menu (Fig. 3A) does not provide any status information regarding the security system. To obtain status information, the user must select "Security Management" from the main menu (Fig. 3A), and then from the "Security Management" sub-menu (Fig. 3G) the user must select the desired sub-menu such as "Entry Level". That brings the user to the "Entry Level" sub-menu (Fig. 3H) which finally shows the "System Status" as "Ready To Arm". Then by selecting an area or portion of the Entry Level display, the user obtains the additional status information regarding a particular zone of the security system being enabled.

In the embodiment of Figs. 12A to 12G of Launey et al., the main menu (Fig. 12A) once again fails to depict or otherwise provide any status information. Instead, the user must select a desired sub-menu from the main menu in order to obtain status information regarding the selected sub-system. For example, by selecting "VCR" from the main menu (Fig. 12A), the user comes to the "VCR" sub-menu (Fig. 12D) which provides the status

information "Cassette In". That status information is not provided by the main menu (Fig. 12A).

- 11) The secondary reference of Speirs et al. discloses a lighting system for an aircraft cabin. The Examiner has cited this reference for a disclosure regarding such a system being implemented in an aircraft and regarding the use of a touch sensitive LCD screen.

As a first point, it does not seem that Speirs et al. expressly disclose the touch sensitive display panel as being a touch sensitive LCD screen. While Speirs et al. do disclose a liquid crystal panel (48), that liquid crystal panel has nothing to do with the touch sensitive display screen, but rather is a selectively obscurable cabin divider panel between two different areas or classes of the aircraft cabin (see col. 5, lines 6 to 27).

More importantly, Speirs et al. do not provide any further suggestions regarding the inventive arrangement including a main menu and several subordinate system menus, whereby the main menu depicts status information regarding at least two subordinate cabin systems associated with the respective system menus. Instead, Speirs et al. relates only to a lighting system and a control panel for the lighting system.

Thus, even considering the disclosures of Speirs et al. in combination with those of Launey et al. as discussed above would not have provided any suggestion or motivation toward the presently claimed invention. Namely, neither of the references suggest the important feature of the present invention, whereby

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the main menu depicts status information about first and second cabin systems that are respectively allocated to first and second subordinated system menus which can further be selected from the main menu.

- 12) The present invention represents a significant advance and improvement over the system according to Launey et al. in view of Speirs et al., because it is substantially more efficient and user-friendly.

With the present inventive arrangement, the user can see essential status information regarding the first and second cabin systems (and preferably each of the available cabin systems) directly from the main menu displayed on the display screen. Based on seeing this status information of the sub-systems displayed on the main menu, the user can then decide whether a further investigation or control of the particular functions of any one of the sub-systems is necessary.

For example, as shown in Fig. 4 of the present application, the main menu depicts pertinent status information regarding the cabin audio system (11), the cabin lighting system (12), the aircraft door monitoring system (13), the air conditioning system (17), and the aircraft water system (14). As a particular example, the graphic image of the aircraft cabin representing the air conditioning system (17) displays the air temperature (in °C) in the several zones of the aircraft cabin. By seeing this temperature status information on the top-level main menu, the user can immediately see that the temperature in the forward first-class cabin zone is too high (24.0°C). Based on this

status information, the user can then decide to select the air conditioning sub-menu (by touching the associated graphical aircraft cabin icon) in order to adjust the temperature in the forward first-class zone.

To the contrary, in the system according to Launey et al. even as supplemented by Speirs et al., the top-level main menu (e.g. Figs. 3A or 12A of Launey et al.) would not provide any temperature or other status information for the user. When looking at the main menu, the user is not given any indication of whether an adjustment or further inquiry regarding the air conditioning is necessary. Instead, based on the user's desires or information obtained from other sources (other than the main menu), e.g. simply noticing that a particular room in the house feels too hot, the user must "blindly" select "Environmental Control" from the main menu (Fig. 3A) and thus be brought to a sub-menu that would presumably simply include selections of a heating system, an air conditioning system, and the like. From there, the user would once again "blindly" select the air conditioning system, and finally at the level of the sub-sub-menu for the air conditioning system, the user might obtain some status information.

Such a system as disclosed by Launey et al. is much less efficient and much less useful than the inventive system for the above reasons.

- 13) In view of the above, the invention of present independent claim 1 would not have been obvious over the prior art. The dependent claims are patentably distinguishable over the prior art already

due to their dependence. Further remarks regarding the dependent claims are thus deemed unnecessary. For the above reasons, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1 to 17 as obvious over Launey et al. in view of Speirs et al.

- 14) New claims 18 to 26 are also patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

Independent claim 18 is directed to an aircraft cabin systems controller that enables a user to monitor status information and to control functions of plural cabin systems in an aircraft cabin. The controller comprises a touch sensitive display screen, computer-generated first and second system displays selectively displayed on the display screen, and a computer-generated main cabin status display that is selectively displayed on the display screen. According to claim 18, the main cabin status display shows overview status information regarding the first and second cabin systems and further allows the user (by touching the screen) to select a desired one of the first and second system displays to be selectively displayed on the display screen. This combination of features has been discussed above in comparison to the prior art. For the above reasons, the invention of independent claim 18 is patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

The new dependent claims 19 to 26 recite additional features that further distinguish the invention over the prior art.

For example, according to claim 21, the main cabin status display includes first and second graphical aircraft symbols

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schematically representing a plan view of the aircraft cabin, whereby the overview status information regarding the respective associated cabin system is displayed on and/or adjacent to this graphical aircraft symbol. It is significant that this graphical aircraft symbol is displayed on the main cabin status display, i.e. the main menu. In contrast, it is noted that the system according to Launey et al. includes certain sub-menus providing a graphical image or display of a floor plan of a house, but such graphical displays are not included in the main menu according to Launey et al.

Claim 23 recites that the user interface panel further includes plural touch buttons incorporated in the user interface panel and linked to the subordinate system displays, in addition to the touch sensitive surface input arrangement superimposed on the main cabin status display. Thus, according to claim 23, the inventive controller provides two different ways for a user to select the desired sub-system from the main menu, namely either by touching the associated area on the main menu display, or by touching the associated button. To the contrary, the main menu according to Launey et al. only includes labeled touch sensitive "buttons", and does not include a combination of touch buttons with a second selection ability via touch sensitive graphical images or the like.

Claim 26 points out that the touch buttons are permanent, physical input keys. In this regard, the Examiner has referred to the physical key pad disclosed by Launey et al. However, Launey et al. do not expressly disclose that the key pad includes buttons that are individually linked to sub-menus, but rather

discloses that the physical keypad can be a numerical keypad or a keyboard or the like for data input in the usual sense.

- 15) New claims 27 to 29 are also patentably distinguishable over the prior art. According to new independent claim 27, the inventive aircraft cabin system controller includes the user interface panel with a touch sensitive display screen, computer-generated first and second system displays, and a computer-generated main cabin display which includes first and second graphical aircraft symbols respectively schematically representing a plan view of the aircraft cabin. Claim 27 also provides a combination of touch sensitive areas superimposed on the graphical aircraft symbols as well as separate touch buttons individually linked to the system displays. Contrary thereto, the top level main menu according to Launey et al. does not include graphical aircraft symbols schematically representing a plan view of the aircraft cabin (only sub-menus include plan views of room layouts), and does not provide a combination of touch sensitive icon areas as well as separate touch buttons.
- 16) Referring to section 22 on page 8 of the Office Action, the additional prior art made of record on Form PTO-892 has been considered, but does not appear to include any relevant disclosures regarding the present inventive features discussed above.

- 17) Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, including all present claims 1 to 4 and 6 to 29, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Applicant

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Enclosures:
Form PTO-2038,
Term Extension,
IDS, Form PTO-1449,
1 reference

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